

Today's Topics:

How Much Good Does Ham Radio "Emergency Preparedness" Do?

INTERESTING SNIPPETS

PL259 connector assembly

Solar Panel Problems!

When do you use this? (was Re: KENWOOD TM701A CROSS BAND MOD)

Wipeout! (2 msgs)

Date: 24 Oct 89 16:31:28 GMT

From: mips!wyse!steve@apple.com (Steve Wilson xttemp dept303)

Subject: How Much Good Does Ham Radio "Emergency Preparedness" Do?

In article <6667@sybase.sybase.com> forrest@sybase.com writes:

>For a long time I have watched and listened to many emergency
>preparedness efforts that have taken place. I don't take part in
>them because based on my experiences in several major earthquakes
>and other lesser disasters, I've learned that most of this well
>intentioned work doesn't amount to much.

Not this time. What is amazing is how well coordinated the response has been, at least in the Santa Clara Valley area where I'm listening and involved with ARES. Each of the city EOC's was up with in about 20 minutes of the disaster. Several, including my city were essentially cut off from the rest of the county. We became their eyes and ears for during the first 2 to 3 hours. Los Gatos EOC was evacuated! They didn't have ANY phones as an example. This is where the planning and drills come in. At least in Santa Clara County we are also the prime movers of data for the Red Cross. The one on-going assignment we've got right now is providing communications for all of the shelters that have been set up in the middle of no-where.

>What usually happens is
>that there is about 80% chaos, confusion, and needless running
>around. My theory is that, with a few exceptions mentioned below, this
>80% figure is what would occur naturally, with or without all the
>emergency preparations.

>

>This wasn't even
>all that bad an earthquake, in spite of what you may have seen on
>TV. If it had been really bad the confusion factor would have been
>even worse.

Go see Los Gatos or Santa Cruz in person, then tell all the people in shelters in Watsonville, Santa Cruz, and Los Gatos it wasn't all that bad an earthquake. It certainly could have been worse, but

it was bad enough!

>

>The areas that I see that do benefit from emergency preparedness
>are:

>

- >1. Making sure repeaters can stay on the air after the disaster.
- >2. Agreeing on which frequencies to use for certain purposes.
- >3. Having stations setup at key sites
- >4. Setting up liasons between civil defense organizations and ham
> radio operators

>

There are a couple areas that you've missed.

1. Training a core of people who know what they are doing so they can be the managers in a situation like whats going on!
2. Knowing where the weakness is in your organization allows you to correct the defects. You can't find this out without drills.

>Other than this, since ham radio is not a paramilitary organization,
>I don't think there's much we can do to substantially reduce the
>chaos and confusion.

Nope. See point number 1. The people who drill year round, and receive extra training like learning about the Incident Command System used by served agencies, or take part in Public service events where they learn about operating in nets, and responding to extended events in a prepared manner are important people right now! The people who are walking in off the streets are welcome, and their basic skills as hams is useful, but we also need people on sight who can show them how our organization works, how to operate on nets, how to be a net control, etc. We wind up having to do on-the-job training and this can only be done by people who have been drilled into knowing how to do the job we have to do!

Side note considering personal confusion. I didn't really experience any because I had a purpose and a place to go immediately. I knew how I was going to react before it happened, it was a planned response to the situation. Thats not to say I wan't scared, but I did know what I had to do, as did my entire city ARES organization. This actually seems to help ALOT with dealing with the initial situation.

>But, I don't think this is any big deal.

>Most hams gladly and unselfishly lend a hand when problems occur.

>I bet that most of the good work results from spontaneous organization
>and natural talent rather than all the drills.

>

See above.

>Please don't misunderstand what I'm saying. Ham Radio should play
>a vital role in providing communications after a disaster. It has
>proved itself many times. All I'm saying is that I don't think that
>a lot of the organization and effort that goes into Ham Radio emergency
>preparedness is worth it.

Let me give you a couple examples of where training paid off immediately.
In Santa Clara County we have a plan called MCIP(Medical Casualty Incident
Plan) Its caused us to pre-place antenna drops at all of the hospitals
AND drill twice a year with them and various area fire departments
at implementing the plan. Oddly enough we had one of those drills
last Saturday ;-) The hospital net was on the air almost immediately.
Up at Stanford the doctors where trying to figure out where there was
a working Cat Scan in the county, they had a bunch of people at a
phone bank trying to find out. The hams came through with the info
in about 5 minutes. We were already at the locations they wanted to
get in touch with. We have a drill locally every time there has
been a minor quake. The drill is simple, show up on 146.115 and
listen. If you have any damage report it to net control. This
little drill has the benefit of getting us lots of people available
when it was the real thing because people knew exactly where we
would be coordinating efforts.

Mind you our response hasn't been perfect, but due to the drills
we've carried out over the years we know what should be done
and we try to fix things as they occur. There are also things
that can be done better and we'll try to learn from the whole
experience. Thats another point...we have a collective learning
experience as an organization about what works and what doesn't.
The propagation of this knowledge to others who join the group
keeps it fresh, and helps us improve as new view points are added.

73's de Steve KA6S
EC for the city of Milpitas

Date: 24 Oct 89 19:14:12 GMT
From: agate!shelby!portia!jessica!paulf@ucbvax.Berkeley.EDU (Paul Flaherty)
Subject: INTERESTING SNIPPETS

In article <8910231219.AA19254@bunny.gte.com> pescatore_jt%ncsd@gte.COM writes:
> STATUS: The FCC is being rapidly refurbished by its new management.
> Potted plants recently appeared in the lobbies of the two main FCC
> buildings on M Street in Washington and touch tone phones, yes, touch
> tone phones, are being installed in the offices.

Aha! So that's why the FCC needs a \$35 license fee! Gee, I'll sleep a lot better knowing that regulatory bureaucrats won't have to suffer digititis and breathe large quantities of Carbon Dioxide anymore.

Maybe with a little more oxygen in their brains, they'll wake up.

-=Paul Flaherty, N9FZX | "I asked for a dissertation topic, and for my
->paulf@shasta.Stanford.EDU | sins, they gave me one."

Date: 24 Oct 89 17:58:40 GMT
From: victim.dec.com!reisert@decwrl.dec.com (Jim -- LTN1-2/H03 -- DTN 226-6905)
Subject: PL259 connector assembly

In article <7880085@hpfcdc.HP.COM>, perry@hpfcdc.HP.COM (Perry Scott) writes...
>This is how I do it:

- >
>6. Screw on the PL259. You should see the outer copper braid through
> the four little holes on the side of the PL259, and the center
> conductor should protrude out the end of the PL259.
>9. Solder through the four little holes on the side.

It helps if you first take a knife and scrape around the insides of the 4 little holes before screwing the connector together. I've had trouble getting solder to adhere to the metal, but if you scrape away some of the surface, solder takes to it without much ado.

jim, AD1C

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"The opinions expressed here in no way represent the views of Digital Equipment Corporation."

Jim Reisert	Internet: reisert@tallis.enet.dec.com
Digital Equipment Corp.	UUCP: ...decwrl!tallis.enet!reisert
Littleton, MA 01460	

Date: Tue, 24 Oct 89 11:00:51 CDT
From: rlwest@flop2.csc.ti.com (Bob West - WA8YCD - DSEG/HRD Computer Systems Training - MSG HRD1 - 995-1908)
Subject: Solar Panel Problems!

>Jan Steinman - N7JDB writes:

>
>I have the Sovonics panel, as purchased from Antennas West, and am quite happy
>with it. I also have the 8A regulator they sell, and am not so happy. I gets
>quite warm -- I'd guess at least two or three of my hard-earned watts are going
>into heating the package. It makes clicking noises, so I assume it has a relay
>in it. I'd think a power MOSFET would do a better job! It also seems to stick
>sometimes, as I can see the charge LED dimly glowing at night sometimes.
>
>If anyone has a more efficient gel-cell regulator, I'd like to hear from you.
>

Mine doesn't do that.

The KA8IDB control module that came with my panel is quiet and cool.
It >is< the second one...the first one did not work and I had to get a
replacement.

Maybe you can get them to replace the one you have?

73, & good luck! --> please keep us posted on what solution you come up with!

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-----  
Bob WA8YCD [o] "I don't want none o' that new-fangled  
RLWEST@FLOPN2.CSC.TI.COM [!] LIGHT-powered stuff! Just' gimme the  
WA8YCD@W5TOO.#NTX.TX.USA.NA [o] reg'lar old-fashioned HEAVY-powered!"  
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Date: 24 Oct 89 13:34:22 GMT
From: att!cbnewsd!jmseb@ucbvax.Berkeley.EDU (john.m.sebeson)
Subject: When do you use this? (was Re: KENWOOD TM701A CROSS BAND MOD)

In article <5901@merlin.usc.edu>, cyamamot@nunki.usc.edu (Cliff Yamamoto) writes:
> In article <8910210938.AA01137@ucbvax.Berkeley.EDU> SKAG00@MEMSTVX1.BITNET
(SURESH KAG00) writes:
> >The repeater cross-band operation allows the TM-701A to receive on one band &
> >re-transmit the signal on the other band. The TM-701A alternately displays the
>
[stufff deleted]

> Also how do these rigs do this? I guess since you're on different
> bands you don't need a duplexer but do ALL dual band rigs have two
> antenna connections on them? And how do you set your rig to
> talk/listen to a cross band repeater? Do you use an offset or is it
> simplex?
>

> Thanks for any info!
> Cliff Yamamoto de KA6JRG

Almost all modern dual band rigs have a built in duplexer so you don't need two separate antennas. Operation is simple,: you set a receive frequency on one band and a xmit freq. on the other. I have a new ICOM 3210 (2m/70cm) with this feature. What's neat is that you can hear a signal on the receive frequency while you are transmitting. If you are using a "cross band autopatch" this feature allows full duplex telephone conversations, just as if you were using a regular or cellular telephone. If you think about it, there is no need for an "offset" s: you are automatically transmitting on the repeater receive frequency and listening on its transmit frequency (a big offset, if you will, in different bands!).

By the way, I am new to the world of dual band rigs and cross band repeaters. Does anyone know of such beasts (x band repeaters) in the Chicago area? Cross band autopatches?

Also: I have been reading this net for a while, but have never written anything. Hi, all! An interesting net (although the CQ Pizza stuff did drag on a bit :)).

~~~~~  
John Sebeson  
KB8RY  
Naperville, IL

~~~~~  

Date: 24 Oct 89 19:02:27 GMT
From: agate!shelby!portia!jessica.Stanford.EDU!paulf@ucbvax.Berkeley.EDU (Paul Flaherty)
Subject: Wipeout!

You know propagation conditions aren't so good when you can't even copy WWV! Even CW isn't getting through this mess! Is anyone else experiencing similar conditions (10/24/89, 1900Z)?

--Paul Flaherty, N9FZX | "I asked for a dissertation topic, and for my
->paulf@shasta.Stanford.EDU | sins, they gave me one."

Date: 24 Oct 89 20:09:25 GMT
From: hubcap!bjb@gatech.edu (BJ Backitis)
Subject: Wipeout!

From article <6074@portia.Stanford.EDU>, by paulf@jessica.Stanford.EDU (Paul Flaherty):

> You know propagation conditions aren't so good when you can't even copy WWV!
> Even CW isn't getting through this mess! Is anyone else experiencing similar
> conditions (10/24/89, 1900Z)?

>

>

> -=Paul Flaherty, N9FZX | "I asked for a dissertation topic, and for my
> ->paulf@shasta.Stanford.EDU | sins, they gave me one."

Could this be all because of a recent geomagnetic storm I have heard about? I can't recall just now when it actually happened, but it was supposed to be fairly intense. I haven't touched my radio for a couple of days (I know, an unpardonable sin...), so I hadn't heard it myself. I haven't heard any mention of the storm on the net here, so I didn't think much about it. Does anyone have any particulars on this storm??

de BJ, KM4RB

--

BJ Backitis (KM4RB) | BJB@CLEMSON.BITNET | "There are a great many
Info. Systems Development | BJB@HUBCAP.CLEMSON.EDU | people in this country
Clemson Univ. Division of | {...}!gatech!hubcap!bjb | who, through no fault of
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